



Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

DPI VISTA Monthly

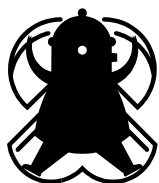
January 2006

Short is the joy that guilty pleasure brings
-Euripides



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Happy New Year!



As we begin things anew, don't forget to enjoy the small things in life. One of the top ten New Year's Resolutions is for people to spend more time with their family/loved ones. May this bring new volunteers to your sites and lots of great things!

January is National Mentoring Month.

REMINDER:

Please remember to take photos of your site by January 5th. We will be using them for a slide show in March's Parent Leadership Conference.



Sites to See:

www.pbs.org

http://www.goalsguy.com/Events/new_facts.htm

Go to this site to learn more about the New Year celebrations

<http://dibels.uoregon.edu/>

This site helps chart students' progress when assessment is hard to judge. Also, type in dibels as a keyword and see what comes up!

www.starfall.com

File folder games!

www.familyfun.com

If you're looking to direct your parents to a fun site with lots of craft ideas, here's the place. You can even browse parts of their magazine.

Available Grants

***Coming Up Taller Awards to Honor Arts and Humanities Awards for Young People**

Each year the Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and reward outstanding after-school and out-of-school arts and humanities programs for underserved children and youth. Award recipients receive \$10,000 each, an individualized plaque, and an invitation to attend the annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. Programs initiated by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, universities, colleges, art centers, community service organizations, schools, businesses, and eligible government entities are encouraged to participate. More info is available at: www.cominguptaller.org

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=124200043

*** Balance Bar Offers Individual/Team Grants and Community Grants**

Balance Bar Individual/Team Grants provide financial support to enthusiasts and amateur athletes who passionately pursue activities that enrich their lives. Individuals and teams can apply for grant amounts ranging from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$10,000. http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=120800042

***Nike Accepting Applications for Bowerman Track Renovation Program**

A philanthropically initiative of Nike, Inc., the Bowerman Track Renovation Program provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks.

***Champions for Healthy Kids Program Offers Grants to Improve Kids' Fitness and Nutrition Habits**

Each year the Champions Grant Program awards fifty community groups and schools with \$10,000 grants that support innovative programs to help children develop positive, lifelong nutrition, and physical fitness habits. The program supports the work of innovative nutrition and fitness programs developed by grassroots, not-for-profit organizations that serve children and teenagers.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=124600036

***Youth Service America and DisneyHand Offer Global Grants Program for Youth Service Day Projects**

These \$500 grants are for youth (ages 5-14), or the teachers, schools, and organizations that engage them to implement service projects on National and Global Youth Service Day, April 21-23, 2006.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=123500049

***Nickelodeon "Let's Just Play" Grant**

For ten months Nickelodeon will award a minimum of twenty winners a month with \$5,000 each to help facilitate play in their community.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=115300070

*** Starbucks Foundation Offers Funding for Youth Literacy Programs**

Through its Giving Voice program, the Starbucks Foundation will fund programs for youth, 6-18, that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live.

http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=112600067

Money Saving Tip of the Month

The holidays may have steered you away from your money saving ways, but we're here to help you get back on track. This month, when you're doing your laundry, consider *drying your clothes on a drying rack instead of using the dryer. (I saved over \$30 dollars on my electric bill for two people this way) Drying racks cost about \$7. This will also increase the life of your clothes, saving you money in the long run.

*Instead of using a fabric softener from the store, make your own! Mix half a bottle of cheap conditioner with water until bottle is filled and mix it up. *Or, add ¼ c. vinegar to your wash in a dispenser ball. No, it doesn't make your laundry smell bad! *You can even make your own laundry detergent by combining a bar of grated soap with six cups of water on low heat until dissolved. Mix in 1c. of washing soda until dissolved. Then add this mixture to four gallons of hot water and mix thoroughly. The mixture will gel and once cooled, you have your own homemade detergent that is better for the environment and cheaper than your usual brand!



7 Baraboo - Candlelight Ski/Walk. Hike & cross country ski the gentle 1 mile torch lit trail. Warm yourself by the campfire. Snacks and beverages provided for a nominal fee. Mirror Lake State Park. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call 608-254-2333.

12 - 29 Milwaukee - Renaissance Theaterworks: Full Gallop. Full Gallop is a hilarious tell-all evening with the incomparable Diana Vreeland, the fashion icon who stood at the center of American Style for five decades. The story is set at a turning point in Vreeland's life- the day she has been unceremoniously fired as the editor of Vogue magazine. In her inimitable style, she changes course and takes off once again, at "full gallop". Studio Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center. For more information call 414-291-7800.

13 - 15 Madison - Madison Symphony Orchestra. Carl St Clair leads this delightful celebration of great French composers. Resident organist Samuel Hutchison performs Poulenc's concerto. Overture Center for the Arts. For more information call 608-258-4141.

13 - 15 New Glarus - Winterfest. Winterfest celebration, the Burning of Winter Ceremony, a Friday night parade, village-wide poker run, the famous "Winterfest Auction", Fireman's dance, buffet banquet. For more information call 800-527-6838.

14 Stoughton - Candlelight Ski. Cross country ski through Lake Kegonsa State Park from 6pm-9pm. Wind up with a bonfire and a hot drink. Lake Kegonsa State Park. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM.

20 - 22 Waukesha - Waukesha JanBoree. Longtime favorites at this annual winter festival include an art festival, polka jam, fireworks, snow angel contest, ice sculpting, run/walk and the Snow Ball featuring live entertainment. Waukesha Area. For more information call (800) 366-8474.

Seasonal Events to Occur in January

21 - 22 Cedarburg - Cure for Cabin Fever Antique Show & Sale. Long running annual event. More than 20 high-quality dealers from the tri-state area. Furniture, toys, sporting goods, stoneware and more. And...don't forget to visit the more than 20 antique shops in and around Cedarburg. Cedarburg Community Center. For more information call (800) 237-2874.

22 - 29 La Crosse - Winter Rec-Fest. A wide variety of winter related activities including ice fishing contest, torchlight hike, state euchre & sheephead tournaments, hockey and figure skating events, youth carnival and more. Green Island Ice Arena. For more information call (608) 789-7533.

27 Menomonie - Swiss Miss Candlelight Ski. Swiss Miss Candlelight Ski on the Red Cedar Trail - Hot chocolate, warm fires and the beautiful 50-foot ice wall highlight this night of skiing. The candle lit ski trail creates an ambiance that any cross country skier needs to experience for themselves. Red Cedar Trail. For more information call (800) 283-1862.

Jan 27 - Feb 12 Milwaukee - Tragedy of Carmen. Nothing can tame the fickle Carmen, not even love, as this compelling opera of passion, betrayal and revenge hits the Skylight stage. Broadway Theatre Center. For more information call 414-291-7800.

29 Mercer - Cross Country Candlelight Ski. Ski the MECCA Trail system lit by more than 100 luminaries. Your trek begins at the Little Turtle Flowage Trailhead (formerly trailhead A), located off Joe's Shack Road. Ski or snowshoe from the trailhead to the warming shack where you will be greeted by a crackling bonfire, hot chocolate, cider, cookies and friendly club members. Little Turtle Flowage Trailhead. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (715) 476-2389.

29 Oshkosh - Kid's Expo. Fox Valley's Premier Children's Event. Expo for children and their parents to enjoy. Entertainment on stage, vendors and hands-on activities for the kids. Sunnyview Expo Center. Event starts at 10:30AM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call (920) 426-6701.



Happy Birthday this month to:

Kelly (1/13) and Mary (1/25)

Recipe of the Month:

Pumpkin Nut Bread

1/3 c. shortening
 1 c. sugar
 2 eggs
 1 c. canned pumpkin puree
 1 2/3 c. flour
 1 t. baking soda
 1/4 t. baking powder
 3/4 t. salt
 1/2 t. cinnamon
 1/2 t. nutmeg
 1/3 c. water
 1/2 t. vanilla
 1/2 c. chopped pecans

Cream shortening and sugar together. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Stir in pumpkin. Mix dry ingredients together and add to wet, alternating with the water. Add vanilla and pecans. Pour in to bread pan(s) and bake at 350 for approx. 1 hour. (Toothpick should come out clean.)

Tastes great with cream cheese!

Updated Interview Schedule

February: Janice Welsh and Kelly Ranzen
March: Morgana Davis and Kristin Danielson
April: David Curtis and Mary Gutierrez
May: Megan O'Connell and Julie McGonigal
June: Karen Collins and Krista Larson
July: Kathryn Zboralski and TBA

Mix it up Day: A Great Way to Promote Diversity

Looking for a quick and easy way to start change in your school? Think about having a Mix it up Day in your school. Go to

http://www.tolerance.org/teach/mix_it_up/index.jsp

To learn about the program and get all the ideas you need to start this in your school. Help kids reach outside Their normal social circles by implementing Mix it up events in your school.



Book Review: A Framework for Understanding Poverty

By Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D.

Many of you have already read this, but some have not. If you haven't yet, you should! It's perfect for our work and the teachers in our schools. Everyone should be more aware of what goes on in poverty. We may think we are well aware, but this book really clarifies and educates us. It forces one to think about a worthy topic. So many of our children come from poverty that the only way we can begin to help them is by understanding their world. It's a very quick read, so jump on it and enjoy!



Enjoy working with families?

The University of Wisconsin Stout has a graduate program, Family Studies and Human Development, which may appeal to you or the teachers at your school. It takes place primarily during the summer. The focus of the program "is on the individual across the lifespan with an emphasis on family system processes and relationships" (*Family Studies and Human Development*, College of Human Development). If you would like more information about this program, you may visit www.uwstout.edu/programs/msfshd/ or email Becky Busch at buschr@uwstout.edu. She is the graduate assistant for the FSHD program and would be more than delighted to guide you through the information. Financial aid information is available at www.uwstout.edu/finaid.

Spotlight Interview with Edwina Matthews as asked by Lisa Fusco

L: What made you want to become an Americorps VISTA?

E: *I wanted to give back to the community, and I thought it was a good way to broaden my horizons and learn about other jobs and what other people are doing. I also always wanted to join the Peace Corps, and this was a good alternative.*

L: What has been your most rewarding experience so far as a VISTA?

E: *Learning from other VISTAs at workshops and getting ideas from them.*

L: What is your favorite joke told to you by a child?

E: *Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken was trying to get out of the way of the car.*

L: How has your past teaching experience helped you in your job as a VISTA?

E: *It helped me to communicate with families and co-workers, and to deal with people in general since people have different opinions and ideas and you have to respect other points of view even if you don't agree.*

L: What have your own kids taught you about life?

E: *That life is precious and you live it one day at a time. And to love others and accept love.*

L: What has been your biggest challenge as a VISTA?

E: *Trying to write grants and get money.*

L: What does George Washington Carver Academy do to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

E: *We celebrate black history. The children put on a play. We have black educators come in to read books and talk about their careers. Black KOTHO dancers come in and put on a performance. I do poetry readings and talk to the children about my experience as a civil rights activist (I marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).*

L: Do you have any advice for other VISTAs in trying to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day?

E: *Read a story about black history to the children or take them to the library, or read a story about your favorite historical black figure. Look for activities that are going on in the city in the newspaper.*

L: Do you have any hobbies?

E: *I play golf and write poetry.*

L: What is your favorite holiday?

E: *Christmas. I like going to mass, and to me it is a religious holiday.*